eligible for electrification under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). Habitations/ hamlets having population of 100 or more are being covered under RGGVY.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for relaxing the conditions for covering hamlets/habitations having population less than 100 under RGGVY.

Ongoing power projects

2287. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of ongoing power projects in the country and the progress made in respect thereof, till-date, State-wise;

(b) what is the amount spent on these projects, including the amount of foreign capital investment, during 2007-08 and 2008-09, State-wise and project-wise; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed, indicating their present status and the likely date of commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will laid on the Table of House.

Menace of begging

2288. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a survey of about 3500 beggars, conducted by Social Work Department has revealed that four are degree holders, six have completed college courses and many of them earn around Rs. 500 a day, which is higher than what several blue and white collar workers make;

(b) whether in Delhi alone there are 75,000 beggars;

(c) if so, how Government proposes to deal with the growing menace of begging, so that educated and literate do not resort to begging; and

(d) what is the perspective planning to end begging menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) A survey on beggary was conducted by Department of Social Work, University of Delhi on the request of Government of NCT of Delhi. Out of surveyed beggars, 6 were found to be graduates and 4 were post graduates. As per the report, 22 beggars earn between Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- per day.

(b) As per above report it is difficult to assess the exact number of beggars at any given time in Delhi as beggar population is floating and they keep migrating in and out of Delhi. As per the figures collected from different areas at different times, the average number of beggars in Delhi is 58,570.

(c) and d) Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that regular raids are conducted to apprehend Beggars under Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi. Many other steps like mobile courts under the Act, Opening of Shelter Homes, involvement of NGO's in training and rehabilitation of Beggars, Public -Awareness Campaigns to make people desist from giving alms have been part of perspective plans to end begging menace.

Discrimination and atrocities on dalits in Uttar Pradesh

2289. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the media reports quoting the observation made by the Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) that incidents of discrimination and atrocities against the dalits was the highest in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government has verified the observation made before the media by the head of NCSC or whether the observation was summary of any report already submitted to Government;

(c) the details thereof in either case; and

(d) the steps initiated, if any, by Government on the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In the absence of specific details about the media reports, it is not possible to comment. However, as per information available for the year 2007 of the National Crime Records Bureau, pertaining to cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in absolute terms, the State of Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of cases registered.

(d) As provisions of this Act are implemented by respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, this Ministry has been addressing them to implement its provisions in letter and spirit. Further under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, central assistance is also provided to them mainly for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, inter caste marriages, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

Inclusion of Nama Sudra community in SC list

†2290. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nama Sudra community has been proposed to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the efforts being made to do away with this delay?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.